

What is claimed is:

1. A method of message delivery using a message system, comprising:

receiving from a party at said message system, a message and a category designation for said message;

storing said message in a storage area, said storage area accessed by said message system and corresponding to said category designation for said message;

retrieving messages from said storage area based on a user of said message system choosing said category designation; and

presenting said messages to said user.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein choosing said category designation comprises choosing from among a listing of category designations.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said category designation is separate from designation of intended recipients of said message.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein presenting said message comprises presenting at least one of an audio, text and visual message.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein presenting said message comprises at least one of a text-to-speech conversion and a speech-to-text conversion.

6. The method of claim 1, comprising:

providing a choice for said user to subscribe to future messages from said party when said message is presented to said user; and

identifying said future messages received at said message system from said party as subscribed to messages for said user.

7. The method of claim 6, comprising providing notifications to said user when said future messages are received.

8. The method of claim 1, comprising placing a call from said user to said party based on said user choosing an option to place a call when said message is presented to said user.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving a message comprises receiving distribution parameters for said message.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein retrieving a message comprises matching said distribution parameters with user profile data.

11. The system of claim 1, wherein receiving a message comprises receiving expiration parameters for said message.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein storing said message comprises deleting said message from said storage area when said expiration parameter is exceeded.

13. The system of claim 11, wherein receiving a message comprises receiving distribution parameters for said message.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein retrieving a message comprises matching said distribution parameters with user profile data.

15. The system of claim 1, wherein retrieving a message comprises incrementing a counter to track a number of times said message is retrieved.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein said message system is a voice mail system.

17. The method of claim 16, comprising:

providing a first choice for said message system to place a call from said user to said party;

providing a second choice for said user to subscribe to future messages from said party when said message is presented to said user; and

identifying said future messages received at said message system from said party as subscribed to messages for said user, when said user chooses said second choice.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein receiving a message comprises receiving at least one of distribution parameters and expiration parameters for said message.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein retrieving a message comprises matching said distribution parameters with user profile data.

20. The system of claim 18, wherein storing said message comprises deleting said message from said storage area when said expiration parameter is exceeded.

21. The system of claim 16, wherein retrieving a message comprises incrementing a counter to track a number of times said message is retrieved.

22. A method of receiving messages, comprising:

accessing a message system having a plurality of messages stored in categorized storage areas, wherein categories of said categorized storage areas are independent of intended recipients of said messages;

choosing at least one of said categories to obtain at least one chosen category;

retrieving messages from said at least one chosen category; and

incrementing counters for said messages when said messages are retrieved, each of said counters associated with one of said messages input to said message system by a party, each of said counters accessible by said party for determining a number of times said one of said messages is retrieved.

23. The method of claim 22, comprising optionally placing a call to said party when a user of said message system retrieves one of said messages input by said party.

24. The method of claim 22, comprising:

optionally subscribing to receive future messages from said party when a user of said message system retrieves one of said messages input by said party;

identifying said future messages input by said party as subscribed to messages for said user; and

searching each of said categories to retrieve said subscribed to messages for said user when said user chooses a subscribed to category.

25. The method of claim 22, comprising:

optionally subscribing to receive future messages from said party when a user of said message system retrieves one of said messages input by said party;

identifying said future messages input by said party as subscribed to messages for said user;

forwarding said subscribed to messages to a personal message storage area for said user; and

retrieving said subscribed to messages from said personal message storage area when said user chooses a subscribed to category.

26. The method of claim 22, wherein said message system is a voice mail system.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein retrieving comprises:

optionally placing a call from said user to said party when a user of said message system retrieves one of said messages input by said party;

optionally subscribing to receive future messages from said party when a user of said message system retrieves one of said messages input by said party; and

performing, when said user chooses a subscribed to category, one of searching each of said categories to retrieve said future messages, and of forwarding said future messages to a personal message storage area for said user for retrieval from said personal message storage area.

28. A message system for providing message delivery, comprising:

an input controller to receive and categorize messages from a subscriber to obtain categorized messages;

a plurality of categorized storage areas for storing respectively categorized messages; and

an access controller to receive, from a user of said message system, a selection of at least one of said categorized storage areas to obtain a selected categorized storage area, to retrieve said respectively categorized messages from said selected categorized storage area, and to present said respectively categorized messages to said user.

29. The message system of claim 28, wherein said message system comprises a voice mail system.

30. The message system of claim 29, comprising at least one of an interactive voice response module and a dual tone multi frequency module for said input controller and said access controller.

31. The message system of claim 30, comprising a user database and a subscriber database for storing profiles of said users and subscribers of said message system, respectively.

32. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to deliver messages by:

receiving a message from a party and a category designation for said message from said party;

storing said message in a storage area corresponding to said category designation for said message;

retrieving messages from said storage area based on a user selection of said category designation; and

presenting said messages to said user.

33. The computer-readable medium of claim 32, containing instructions for controlling a computer system to deliver messages by presenting a listing of category designations for selection by said user.

34. The computer-readable medium of claim 32 containing instruction for controlling a computer system to deliver messages, wherein said category designation is separate from designation of intended recipients of said messages.

35. The computer-readable medium of claim 32, containing instructions for controlling a computer system to deliver messages by:

providing a choice for said user to subscribe to future messages from said party when presenting said messages to said user; and

identifying said future messages received from said party as subscribed to messages for said user.

36. The computer-readable medium of claim 35, containing instructions for controlling a computer system to provide notifications to said user when said future messages are received.

37. The computer-readable medium of claim 32, containing instructions for controlling a computer system to place a call from said user to said party based on said user choosing an option to place a call when presenting said messages to said user.

38. The computer-readable medium of claim 32, containing instructions for controlling a computer system to:

receive distribution parameters for said message; and

match said distribution parameters with user profile data when retrieving messages.

39. The computer-readable medium of claim 32, containing instructions for controlling a computer system to:

receive an expiration parameter for said message; and

delete said message from said storage area when said expiration parameter is exceeded.

40. The computer-readable medium of claim 32, containing instructions for controlling a computer system to increment a counter for tracking a number of times said message is retrieved.

41. The computer-readable medium of claim 32 containing instructions for controlling a computer system to deliver voice mail messages.

42. The computer-readable medium of claim 41, containing instructions for controlling a computer system to:



receive distribution parameters for said message; and

match said distribution parameters with user profile data when retrieving messages.

43. The computer-readable medium of claim 41, containing instructions for controlling a computer system to:

receive an expiration parameter for said message; and

delete said message from said storage area when said expiration parameter is exceeded.

44. The computer-readable medium of claim 41, containing instructions for controlling a computer system to increment a counter for tracking a number of times said message is retrieved.